



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: September 8, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) the acquisition of approximately 320 acres (APNS, 3210-005-005, 3210-005-011 through 3210-005-015, 3210-005-017, 3210-005-018, 3210-005-022 through 3210-005-025, 3210-006-001, 3210-006-004 through 3210-006-007, and 3210-008-022) in Long, Nellus, and Soledad Canyons using in lieu mitigation funds and (b) the acceptance of additional funds and grants necessary to complete said acquisition, unincorporated Santa Clara River watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) the acquisition of approximately 320 acres (APNs, 3210-005-005, 3210-005-011 through 3210-005-015, 3210-005-017, 3210-005-018, 3210-005-022 through 3210-005-025, 3210-006-001, 3210-006-004 through 3210-006-007, and 3210-008-022) in Long, Nellus, and Soledad Canyons using in lieu mitigation funds and (b) the acceptance of additional funds and grants necessary to complete said acquisition, unincorporated Santa Clara River watershed.

Background: These parcels located in Agua Dulce form a north-south corridor from the Santa Clara River to the Angeles National Forest and provide a key wildlife and recreational corridor north of State Route (SR) 14. The properties also abut a large 880-acre Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holding. All of the parcels are located within the established Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) boundaries, and all but four are currently targeted for CAPP acquisition. (A CAPP has been prepared for the Department of Fish and Game by MRCA, SMMC, and Rivers and Mountains Conservancy staff.) All of the parcels are within both the recently adopted MRCA Workprogram and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Land Acquisition Work Program boundaries.

The northern group of parcels (shown on Map 1) are currently on the market for \$358,000. These represent the most developable area in the multi-thousand acre habitat area between the Angeles National Forest and SR 14. The proposed

acquisition would be funded by up to \$208,000 of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's eligible in lieu mitigation fee funds; any remaining cost up to \$150,000 would be subject to an MRCA grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 40 funding.

The southern group of parcels (APNs 3210-006-004 through 3210-006-007 and 3210-008-022 shown on Map 2) are proposed to be acquired with in lieu fee mitigation funds. The asking price of three of these parcels has not been confirmed. The asking price for APNs 3210-006-006 and 3210-006-007 is \$235,000 for 32 acres.

Acquisition of all parcels is of course subject to and contingent upon an approved appraisal, and use of in lieu fee mitigation funds for the acquisitions is subject to the approval of the permitting agencies, namely the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/ or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.